



NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA*

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August 2, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA — A 50 year old Richmond, Virginia, resident was named in an Indictment returned today (August 2, 2006) by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Acting United States Attorney Rita R. Valdrini announced that **RONALD L. PHILLIPS** was named in a two count Indictment. Count One of the Indictment alleges that **PHILLIPS** attempted internet enticement of a minor from June 27, 2006, to July 30, 2006, in Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia. Count Two of the Indictment alleges that **PHILLIPS** traveled in interstate commerce from Virginia to West Virginia on July 30, 2006, for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct and prostitution with a person whom he believed to be a 14-year-old girl.

The Indictment also carries a forfeiture allegation wherein the United States seeks to forfeit from **PHILLIPS** all real or personal property used or intended to be used to commit the offenses alleges in the Indictment. This includes, but is not limited to all cash from two bank envelopes recovered during the arrest of the defendant containing \$1,160.00 and \$280.00; and computer hardware and accessories removed from the defendant's residence.

If convicted, **PHILLIPS** faces a maximum exposure of five to 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 on Count One of the Indictment; and a maximum exposure of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 on Count Two of the Indictment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office.

It should be noted that the charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and not evidence of guilt, and that each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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